

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Advisory Action mailed November 15, 2004. Claims 1-3, 6-20, 22-29, 33, 37-39, 41-43, and 47 are pending in the present application and stand rejected.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that the independent claims would be in condition for allowance if amended to clarify that the CAS value is "located within" and not merely associated with the "first plurality of service channels." Although Applicants believe this to be the meaning of the term "comprising" in the relevant limitations of the previously-presented independent claims, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 14, 18, 25, and 37 to specifically recite that the CAS value is "located within" each of the "first plurality of service channels." Applicants have not amended independent Claims 29 and 43 since Applicants believe that the limitation, "insert DS-0 traffic received at the port and a current channel associated signaling (CAS) value for the DS-0 traffic into every one of a first plurality of service channels in the frame," clearly recites that the CAS value is in the first plurality of service channels.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, 14, 18, 25, 29, 37 and 43, as well as the claims that depend from these independent claims.

CONCLUSION


Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

Attached is a check in the amount of \$790.00 for the Request for Continuation Examination fee. Although Applicants believe that no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Brian W. Oaks
Reg. No. 44,981

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Correspondence Address:

Customer Number

05073